

II. Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 41 ~~claim 39~~, wherein the attachment tube is couplable to the coupling assembly at a plurality of locations along the longitudinal axis with respect to the coupling assembly.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The surgical instrument of claim 39, further comprising A~~ surgical instrument for the dissection of bone or other tissue having a motor with a power output, the surgical instrument comprising:

a dissection tool having an elongated shaft, a proximal end, and a distal end;

a coupling assembly for coupling the power output to the proximal end of the dissection tool, the coupling assembly extending along a longitudinal axis;

an attachment tube having a proximal portion movably coupled to the coupling assembly and an internal passage extending from the proximal portion to an opposite distal portion, the proximal portion of the internal passage extending substantially along the longitudinal axis and the distal portion of the internal passage extending at an oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis; and

a locking assembly movably coupled to the coupling assembly, the locking assembly movable between a locked position wherein the attachment tube is locked to the coupling assembly, a guiding position wherein the attachment tube is moveably coupled to the coupling assembly, and an open position wherein the attachment tube is removable from the coupling assembly,

wherein the attachment tube is movable along the longitudinal axis between a first coupled position and a second coupled position with respect to the coupling assembly such that the distal end of the dissection tool extends beyond the distal portion of the attachment tube a

first distance in the first coupled position and the distal end of the dissection tool extends beyond the distal portion of the attachment tube a second distance in the second coupled position, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

42. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 41, wherein the coupling assembly and the attachment tube are movably coupled to one another in the guiding position via a projection and detent retention system.

43. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 42, wherein the attachment tube comprises an outer surface with at least one elongated detent and the coupling assembly comprises at least one projection for mating with the at least one elongated detent.

44. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 43, wherein the at least one projection slidably engages the at least one elongated detent to permit movement of the attachment tube along the longitudinal axis with respect to the coupling assembly.

45. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 41 ~~claim 39~~, wherein the attachment tube further comprises at least one bearing in the proximal portion and at least one bearing in the distal portion, each of the bearings supporting at least a portion of the elongated shaft.

46. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 41 ~~claim 39~~, wherein the attachment tube further comprises a curved transition portion connecting the proximal portion of the attachment tube to the distal portion of the attachment tube.

47. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 41 ~~claim 39~~, wherein the distal portion of the internal passage extends along an axis at an oblique angle of between about 3° and about 30° with respect to the longitudinal axis.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 50 ~~claim 48~~, wherein the attachment tube is couplable to the coupling assembly at a plurality of locations along the longitudinal axis.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The surgical instrument of claim 48, further comprising~~ A surgical instrument for the dissection of bone or other tissue having a motor with a power output, the surgical instrument comprising:

a dissection tool having an elongated shaft, a coupling area adjacent a proximal portion, and a dissecting area adjacent a distal portion;

a coupling assembly for fixedly coupling the power output to the coupling area of the dissection tool, the coupling assembly extending along a longitudinal axis;

an attachment tube movably coupled to the coupling assembly, the attachment tube receiving and supporting at least a portion of the elongated shaft, a proximal portion of the attachment tube extending substantially along the longitudinal axis and a distal portion of the tube extending along an axis extending at an oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis, a curved transition portion connecting the proximal portion to the distal portion; and

a locking assembly movably coupled to the coupling assembly, the locking assembly movable between a locked position wherein the attachment tube is locked to the coupling assembly, a guiding position wherein the attachment tube is moveably coupled to the coupling assembly, and an open position wherein the attachment tube is removable from the coupling assembly,

wherein the attachment tube is movable along the longitudinal axis with respect to the coupling assembly between a first coupled position and a second coupled position,

wherein in the first coupled position the elongated shaft of the dissection tool includes a bend corresponding to the curved transition portion of the attachment tube at a first distance from the dissecting area, and

wherein in the second coupled position the elongated shaft of the dissection tool includes a bend corresponding to the curved transition portion of the attachment tube at a second distance from the dissecting area, the second distance being less than the first distance.

51. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 50, wherein the coupling assembly includes an aperture for receiving the attachment tube and at least one movable projection extends into the aperture, wherein in the guiding position the at least one movable projection movably engages a recess of the attachment tube to retain the attachment tube in the guiding position.

52. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 51, wherein the at least one movable projection provides a tactile sensation to the user to indicate movement between the guiding position and the open position.

53. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 50 ~~claim 48~~, wherein the motor includes a motor housing and the coupling assembly is removably coupled to the motor housing.

54. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 50 ~~claim 48~~, wherein the attachment tube further comprises at least one bearing in the proximal portion and at least one bearing in the distal portion, each of the bearings supporting at least a portion of the elongated shaft.

55. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 51, wherein the axis of the distal portion of the attachment tube extends at an oblique angle of between about 3° and about 30° with respect to the longitudinal axis.

56. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument for the dissection of bone or other tissue having a motor with a power output, the surgical instrument comprising:

a dissection tool having an elongated shaft, a coupling area adjacent a proximal end, and a dissecting area adjacent a distal end;

a coupling assembly for fixedly coupling the power output to the coupling area of the dissection tool, the coupling assembly extending along a longitudinal axis; and

an attachment tube movably coupled to the coupling assembly, the attachment tube

receiving and supporting at least a portion of the elongated shaft, a proximal portion of the tube extending substantially along the longitudinal axis and a distal portion of the tube extending along an axis extending at an oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis, a curved transition portion connecting the proximal portion to the distal portion;

wherein the attachment tube is movable along the longitudinal axis between a first coupled position and a second coupled position with respect to the coupling assembly;

wherein the distal end of the dissection tool extends beyond the distal portion of the attachment tube a first distance in the first coupled position and the distal end of the dissection tool extends beyond the distal portion of the attachment tube a second distance in the second coupled position, wherein the second distance is less than the first distance[.];

wherein in the first coupled position the elongated shaft of the dissection tool includes a bend corresponding to the curved transition portion of the attachment tube at a third distance from the dissecting area; and

wherein in the second coupled position the elongated shaft of the dissection tool includes a bend corresponding to the curved transition portion of the attachment tube at a fourth distance from the dissecting area, the fourth distance being less than the third distance.

57. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 56, wherein the attachment tube is couplable to the coupling assembly at a plurality of locations along the longitudinal axis.

58. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 56, wherein the attachment tube further comprises at least one bearing in the proximal portion and at least one bearing in the distal portion, each of the bearings for supporting at least a portion of the elongated shaft.